

Superfund Cooperative Agreement (V96048302)

Progress Report

October 2013 – December 2013

Site Name: Upper Columbia River - Cooperative Agreement Funding Award, Teck Cominco/EPA Contract Settlement

Ecology Contact: John Roland, Project Coordinator, Toxics Cleanup Program
(Alternate Contact: Chuck Gruenenfelder, Toxics Cleanup Program)

EPA Contact: Dr. Laura Buelow - Region 10 RPM

Background

On June 2, 2006, the EPA and Teck Cominco (TCM) entered into a formal contract, (“Settlement Agreement”), to complete a Superfund RI/FS of the Upper Columbia River site (UCR). Integral to the Settlement Agreement is a Statement of Work, referred to as “Exhibit A” in the contract. Section XIII Costs, subpart 48 of the Settlement Agreement establishes funding by TCM to the State of Washington and others for oversight participation in the RI/FS process. The current Cooperative Agreement “grant” (V-96048302), runs from 3/1/11 through 6/30/15. The agreement serves as the EPA/Ecology administrative construct for distributing Teck funding to the state.

1a. Accomplishments

Project Management and Implementation

Routine communications maintained with the EPA RPM, project team and other Participating Parties. Weekly project manager meetings performed. Cooperative Agreement and file management maintained. Coordination with other state agencies continues, but was quiet during the period.

Technical and Regulatory Remedial Action Participation

Multiparty technical meeting held in December.

Follow up of Phase 2 sediment sampling field program was performed with Ecology assisting in oversight monitoring and evaluation of documentation, sediment chemistry and bioassay split sampling plans.

Conducted preparations and ongoing reviews surrounding upland terrestrial and residential soil investigation and designs. Several sampling design details under discussion.

Continued supporting EPA planning for the Bossburg town site & shoreline sampling. During the quarter, Teck disputed being required to sample upland areas.

Ecology completed a review of a Teck memorandum on upland lakes. Ecology advised on the wholesale flawed set of arguments floated in this disappointing deliverable.

Participated in updates on Sierra Zinc Mill.

Discussions triggered on upland background soil conditions and addressing upland lakes/wetlands.

Community Relations

Ecology assisted with public outreach and information sheet flyer development in support of residential soil sampling planning by EPA.

Ecology continues routine ongoing association with the Lake Roosevelt Forum (LRF) – activity—a LRF conference occurred in November. Staff also maintains coordination with local government and outreach to interested citizens as needed. Communication with the Citizens for a Clean Columbia (CCC) continued during the period.

1b. Problems and Corrective Actions

Advised on certain technical aspects of Bossburg planning.

2.a. Is the project on schedule?

The schedule is not managed by Ecology.

b. What percentage of the project is complete?

Estimated progress on the RI and FS may have reached roughly 30 percent.

3.a. Are the project expenditures to date as budgeted?

Expenditure predictions remain generally on track. At about the 2.8 year mark of a 4.25 year budget cycle (~67% into the grant cycle), under the grant structure that initiated in March of 2011 and extends through June 2015, approximately 60% of the \$466,323 budget is expended.

b. Discuss Discrepancies

N/A.

4a. How much time is needed to complete the project?

This is an EPA lead project. RI Work Plan schedule continues to evolve. Projections for RI completion may now be 2025, or later. Upland soil sampling is the next major field effort which will influence Remedial Investigation progress. Plans are for the first efforts at uplands sampling to occur in 2014. The Parties have agreed to explore potential strategies to accelerate completion of the entire CERCLA-like process. The development of focus workgroups is being encouraged by the State and CCT.

b. What amount of funding is needed to complete the project?

Ecology continues to anticipate that all annual funds in this current ~4 year cooperative agreement will be applied if the RI progresses.

5. Other – N/A

--